

Methodist Episcopal Parsonage  
35 E. Gordon  
Bel Air  
public

This Victorian house with projecting front bays was probably the third parsonage of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the first being on Churchville Road and the second on the church lot. This house has an intriguing arrangement of columns and lath for front porch posts. They are possibly not original, but they give an Eastlake flavor to the facade. Also worthy of note are the west porch in the second story with its thick but handsome turned posts and the scroll bracket on the east side of the front bays at the roof line. The hall staircase has step to ceiling dowels rather than the more common balustrade. That and the front porch posts may be a turn of the century addition additions possibly copying Eastlake elements from the Richardson house at the corner of Gordon and Hickory.

The building now houses school board offices.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Methodist Episcopal Parsonage  
AND/OR COMMON  
School Board Offices

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
35 E. Gordon Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

1st  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: offices

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Harford County Board of Education

Telephone #: 838-7300

STREET & NUMBER  
45 E. Gordon Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21014

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

Liber #: 622

Folio #: 170

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# **7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two and a half story three bay clapboard house is at 35 E. Gordon Street in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. It presents its gable end to the street; the rolled tin roof seems in good repair. A pair of 1/1 double-hung sash windows decorate the gable. The rest of the windows are 2/2 except for the front ones in the first story which are 2/4. The front windows have louvered wooden shutters. The back building is wider than the front portion which must have been the parlor. A carved bracket decorates the join in the walls on the east side. There are two entrances to the side of the projecting parlor. The east one is now the entrance and is enclosed. It has a single pane transom over a single pane over two panel narrow door. The west door must have been the main entrance. It has a two pane transom over an oak door with two round headed panels over 2 square panels. It is now blocked because the hall has been turned into an office.

The front porch has a hipped roof supported on novelty posts composed of two square boards with stick style cross members; the porch surrounds the first story of the projecting double bay portion. A second story west side porch is tucked in over the front hall. It has a fat turned post and a pair of them engaged on the walls. Scrolled decoration runs along under the spandrel of this gracefully curving shed roof. To the south of the porch over hall is a two story hexagonal bay window with carved brackets supporting the cornice at the top. There is no demarcation between the first and second story.

The rear (south) elevation shows a two bay, two story kitchen addition with a flat roof. Behind that is a porch screened with latticed laths. Facing that at the west end is a shiplap room with a roof slanting down to the west. It has a 4 pane casement window. It was probably a bathroom, the early 20th century solution to the problem of providing indoor plumbing being to graft a room on wherever it was easiest.

It appears that few fundamental changes have been made indoors. The parlor (the ground floor room in the north projection) has a painted slate mantel against the south wall. It has a square opening, and plain colonettes and frieze shallowly incised on it. On the west side behind (south of) the parlor is a small chamber lighted by the bay window. It seems small for a dining room and has no mantel. East of that is now the entrance hall containing the staircase, a closed string, dog-leg run with square floor to ceiling posts downstairs and square balusters. The posts may be a 20th century alteration replacing an enclosure. The office behind the hall probably was the kitchen. Upstairs are 3 bedrooms and a bath.

The woodwork throughout is entirely plain.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      1883

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This attractive Victorian house was built around 1883 to be the Methodist Episcopal Parsonage on land given by Mrs. Elizabeth G. Lee (46/438). It remained in that use until 1945. The unification of the Methodist Episcopal and Methodist Protestant Churches into the Methodist Church (1939) led to the unification of the Main Street churches in 1943. In that year the minister of the First Methodist Church (the former M. E. Church) was assigned to serve both churches. This parsonage was sold in 1945 to its next door neighbor, the Harford County Board of Education (288/52). Apparently the school board had no need of it at the time for it was sold to Anna Stump Williams in 1951 (363/270). She sold it to William Scott Hibbits in 1958 (502/410), and he sold it back to the Board of Education in 1963 (622/170). It houses offices today.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #592 in the Town of Bel Air, 95.15' x 186.46'

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marilynn M. Larew, Architectural Historian

19 September 1979

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

39 Hickory Avenue

TELEPHONE

838-8700

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST 21 STATE CIRCLE SHAW HOUSE ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET Individual Structure Survey Form		SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1407  NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:  UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing  U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:  PRESENT FORMAL NAME: School Board Office  ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME: Methodist Episcopal Parsonage  PRESENT USE: offices  ORIGINAL USE: parsonage  ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:  BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:	
COUNTY: Harford TOWN: Bel Air		PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Excellent( ) Good(X) Fair( ) Poor( )	
LOCATION: 35 E. Gordon		THEME: Architecture STYLE: Vernacular	
COMMON NAME: School Board Office		DATE BUILT: 1883	
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: private residence OWNER: Harford County School Board ADDRESS: 45 E. Gordon Street Bel Air, Md.			
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes( ) No( ) Restricted(X)			
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local(X) State( ) National( )			
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System 1. Foundation: Stone(X) Brick( ) Concrete( ) Concrete Block( ) 2. Wall Structure A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam( ) Balloon( ) B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick( ) Stone( ) Concrete( ) Concrete Block( ) C. Iron( ) D. Steel( ) E. Other: 3. Wall Covering: Clapboard(X) Board and Batten( ) Wood Shingle( ) Shiplap( ) Novelty( ) Stucco( ) Sheet Metal( ) Aluminum( ) Asphalt Shingle( ) Brick Veneer( ) Stone Veneer( ) Bonding Pattern: Other: 4. Roof Structure A. Truss: Wood( ) Iron( ) Steel( ) Concrete( ) B. Other: 5. Roof Covering: Slate( ) Wood Shingle( ) Asphalt Shingle( ) Sheet Metal(X) Built Up( ) Rolled(X) Tile( ) Other: 6. Engineering Structure: 7. Other: Appendages: Porches(X) Towers( ) Cupolas( ) Dormers( ) Chimneys( ) Sheds( ) Ells( ) Wings( ) Other: Roof Style: Gable(X) Hip( ) Shed( ) Flat( ) Mansard( ) Gambrel( ) Jerkinhead( ) Saw Tooth( ) With Monitor( ) With Bellcast( ) With Parapet( ) With False Front( ) Other: Number of Stories: 2½ Number of Bays: 3 Approximate Dimensions: 25' x 50;  Entrance Location: E. Gordon			
THREAT TO STRUCTURE: No Threat( ) Zoning( ) Roads( ) Development( ) Deterioration( ) Alteration(X) Other: new school		LOCAL ATTITUDES: Positive( ) Negative( ) Mixed( ) Other:	



# ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

pr. windows in front gable 1/1, 1st story front 2/4, rest 2/2  
 bay window (2 stories) w elev; entrance 2 bay 1st story front  
 2 pane transom round arched 2/over square 2 panel door  
 front porch: novelty posts, hip roof; 2nd story porch N corner W elev =  
 1 fat turned post, 2 similar pilasters, porch roof shed, carved decoration  
 carved brackets support cornice top of bay window  
 interior: plain woodwork parlor mantel slate painted  
 incised colonettes & frieze  
 room layout changed - now closed string dog-leg staircase with square floor  
 to ceiling post & square balusters may be original or 20th century  
 upstairs 3 br & bath  
 entrance (enclosed) on east end of facade too - leads to  
 wall & stair other one to hall W of parlor: this one has 1 pane transom over  
 single pane door/ 2 panel narrow

RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

M. Episcopal Parsonage 1883

## REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North in Circle)



E. Jordan

T. Main  
 Bond

## SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane( ) Woodland( ) Scattered Buildings( )  
 Moderately Built Up( ) Densely Built Up( )  
 Residential(✓) Commercial(✓)  
 Agricultural( ) Industrial( )  
 Roadside Strip Development( )  
 Other:

Marilynn M. Larew

RECORDED BY:

Town of Bel Air

ORGANIZATION:

17 September 1979

DATE RECORDED:

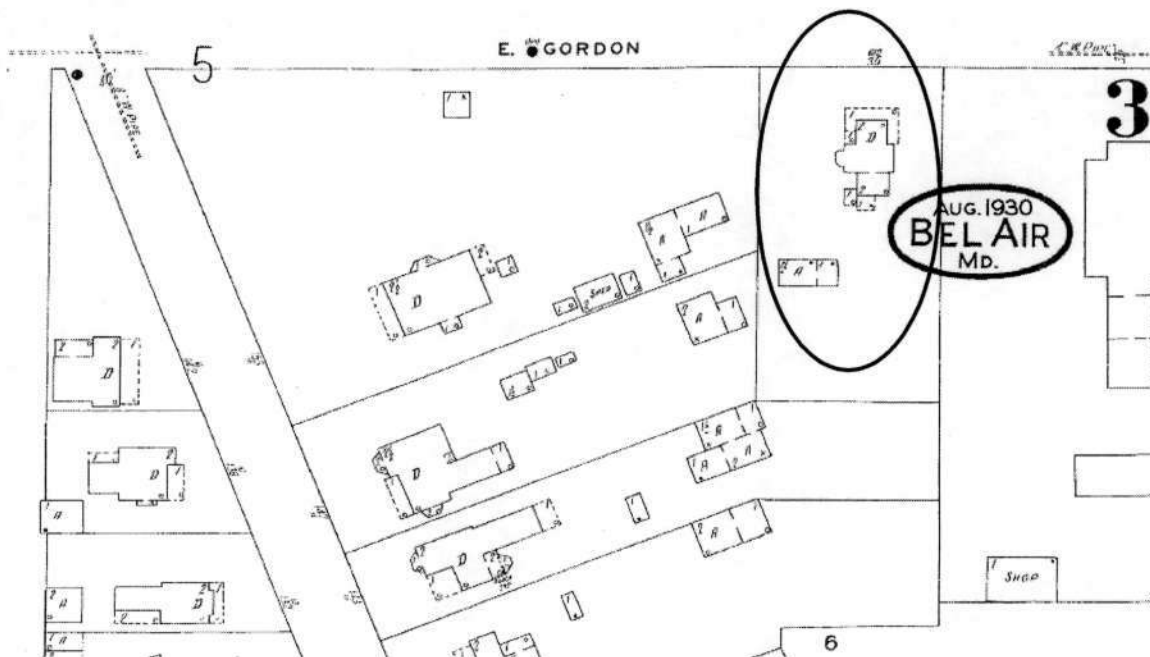
TITLE: 35 E. Gordon

622/170	31 May 1963 William Scott Hibbits & Mary Ellen to Harford County Board of Education
502/410	12 May 1958 Anna Stump Williams & Lewis to William Scott Hibbits & Mary Ellen
363/270	25 September 1951 Harford County Board of Education to Anna Stump Williams
288/52	21 February 1945 The Methodist Church of Bel Air to Harford County Board of Education The former Methodist Episcopal Parsonage
46/438	22 March 1883 Elicabeth G. Lee to The Methodist Episcopal Church

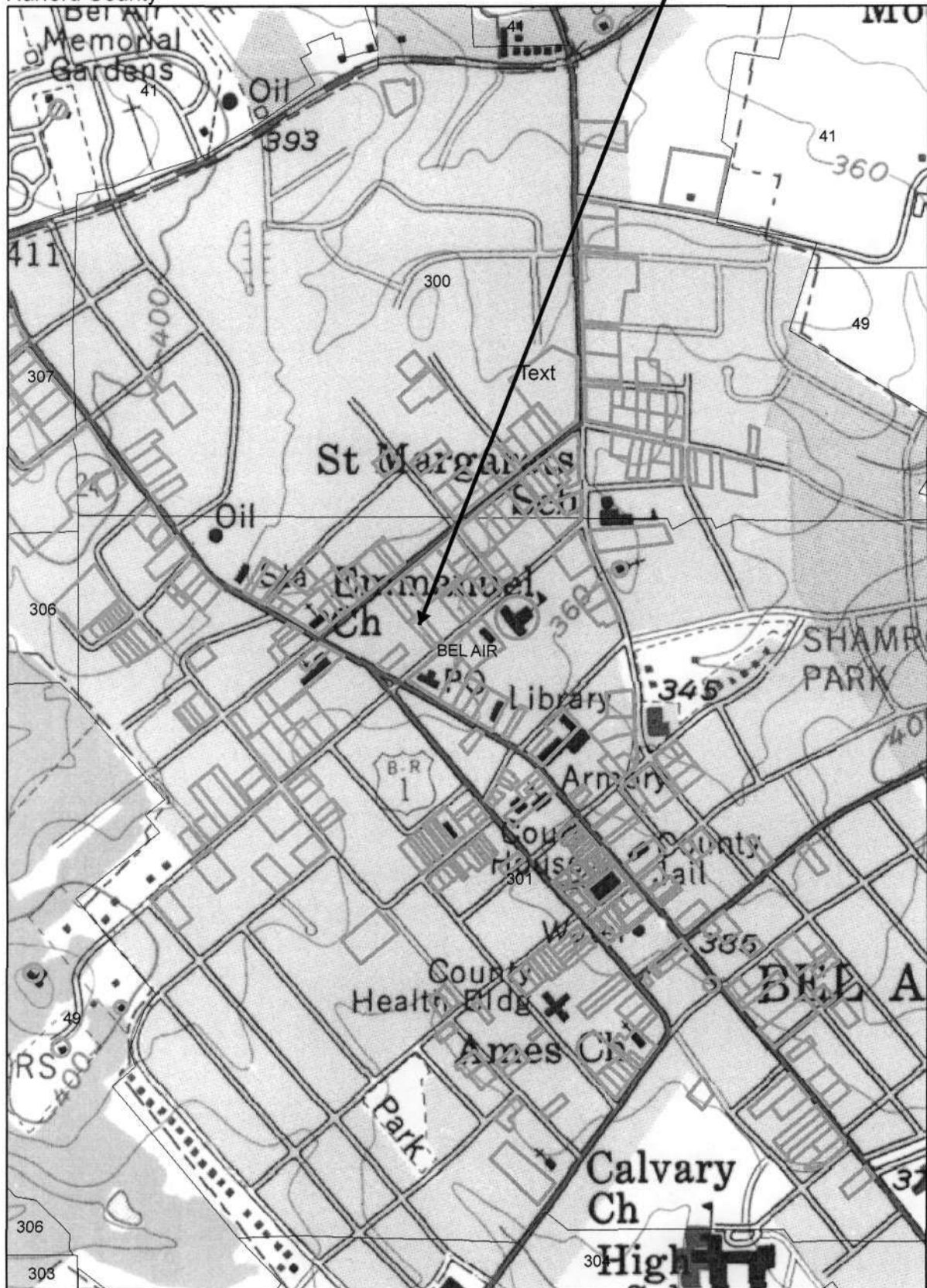




HA-1407  
Methodist Episcopal Parsonage (School Board Offices)  
35 E. Gordon St.  
Bel Air  
Sanborn Bel Air Aug. 1930  
Harford County



HA-1407  
Methodist Episcopal Parsonage  
E. Gordon Street  
Bel Air  
Bel Air Quad  
Harford County





1A - 1407

Methodist Episcopal Parsonage, 35 E. Gordon  
Bel Air

e + n elev

M. Larew, 1979



4A-1407

Methodist Episcopal Parsonage. 35 E. Gordon  
Bel Air

n + w elev

M. Larew, 1939





4A- 1407

Methodist Episcopal Parsonage, 35 E. Gordon  
Bel Air  
s. elev

M. Larew, 1979